

and eleven-twelfths feet. Each was twenty-eight feet high, and pedestal and capital added seven feet more. They stood eleven feet apart. Hence, deducting for the gates, towers, and palace, at least two hundred and sixty columns would be required in the circuit. If one, with the curiosity of a traveller, wished to journey round the entire perimeter, he must continue on through a distance of three thousand and fifteen feet, before his pilgrimage ended at the spot where it had begun; and ever, as he toiled along, there loomed into the air that prodigious mass, forty feet above his head. No wonder that there remained, even in the time of the Sultan Soulei-man, enough to construct that mast superb of most]ties, the Souleimanieh, from the fallen columns, the splintered marbles, the brick and stone of the Hippodrome."

But it was not merely the shell of the Hippodrome that was imposing by reason of its si/e and magnificence. It was filled with the choicest art treasures of the ancient world\* Constantine stole masterpieces with the catholicity of taste, the excellence of artistic judgment, and the callous indifference to the rights of ownership which characterised Napoleon, He stripped the world naked of its treasures, as St. Jerome neatly remarked.\* Rome and its conquering proconsuls and proprietors had done the same. Constantine now robbed Rome and took whatever Rome had left. Greece was still a fruitful quarry. We have already spoken of the Serpent Column, which was torn from Delphi. The historians have preserved for us the names of a number of other famous works of art which adorned the spina and

\* *ConslanttHoptiKt ttttdieatttr /tfw tmtioium  
wbittm nMttifatf.*